

OCT 20 1923

# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

## Weekly

## Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. II, No. 36

OCTOBER 20, 1923

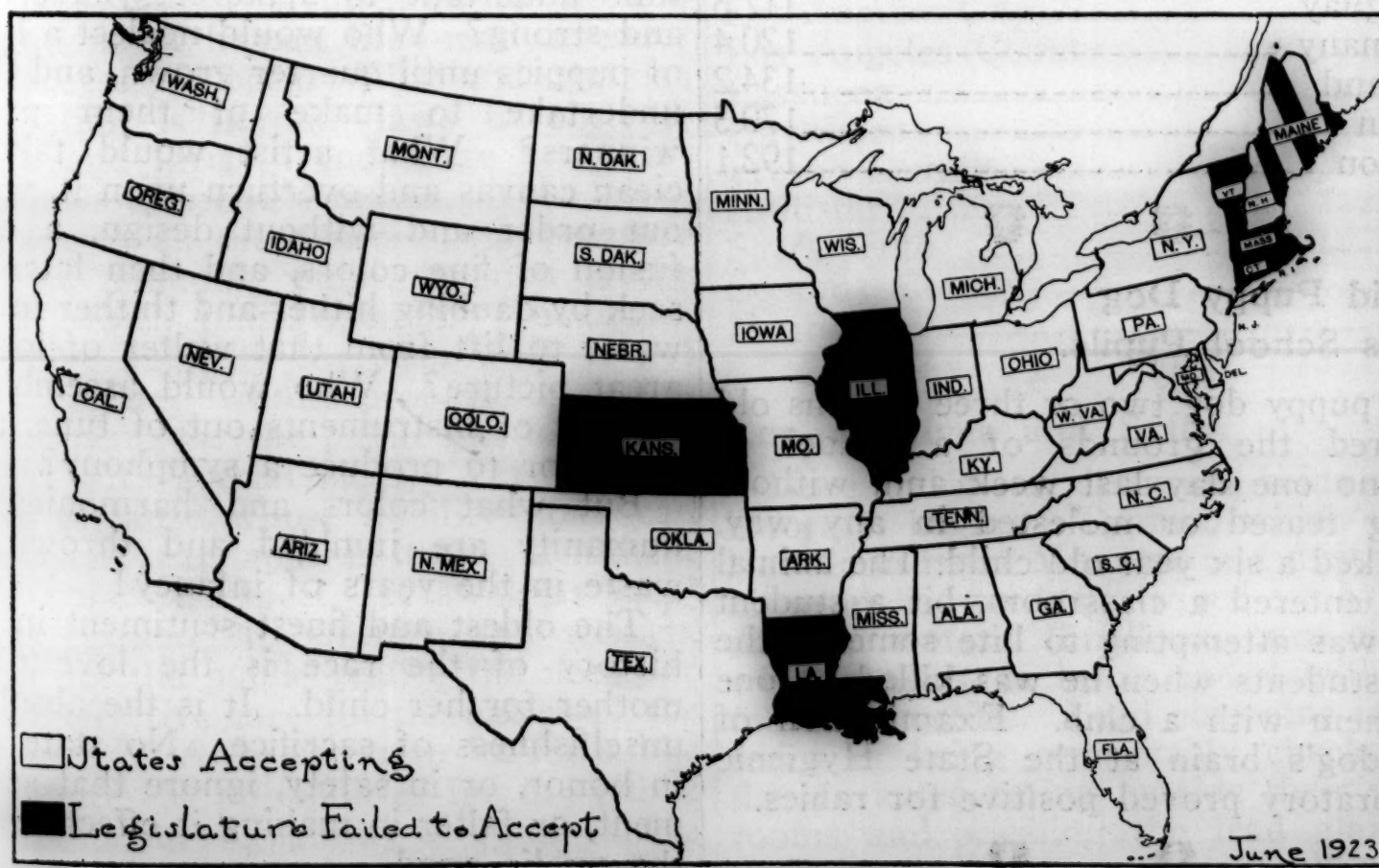
GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

### Infant And Maternal Mortality Too High.

Nearly every state in the Union has accepted the provisions of the federal maternity and infancy act. By means of

States. The infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate for this country can be reduced greatly. Many other countries have much lower rates, as the following tables show. It is

### MATERNITY and INFANCY ACT



June 1923

Acceptance by Legislature Vetoes by Governor

the funds established through this act a vast amount of work in the conservation of the lives of mothers and children is being accomplished throughout the United

certain that during the next few years, with the full cooperation of the various states, marked reductions in infant and maternal mortality rates will be made.



**Death rate of mothers per thousand births in other countries and in the United States.**

Denmark	2.4
The Netherlands	2.4
Sweden	2.5
Italy	3.0
Norway	3.0
Uruguay	3.4
Japan	3.8
England and Wales	3.9
Hungary	4.0
Finland	4.4
Germany	4.9
Australia	5.0
New Zealand	5.1
Spain	5.2
Ireland	5.5
Switzerland	5.5
France	5.7
Scotland	6.2
United States	6.8

**Death rate of infants per thousand live births in certain other countries and in the United States.**

New Zealand	50.6
Norway	62.9
Australia	65.7
The Netherlands	72.8
United States	75.6
England and Wales	79.9
Switzerland	82.2
Ireland	83.0
Denmark	90.5
Scotland	92.0
Uruguay	117.3
Germany	120.4
Finland	134.2
Japan	170.5
Ceylon	192.1



**Rabid Puppy Dog Bites School Pupils.**

A puppy dog two or three months old entered the grounds of a school at Fresno one day last week and, without being teased or molested in any way, attacked a six year old child. The animal then entered a classroom, bit a student and was attempting to bite some of the boy students when he was killed by one of them with a club. Examination of the dog's brain at the State Hygienic Laboratory proved positive for rabies.



There is a great mass of evidence which conclusively proves that consumption is comparatively rare among those who follow an out-door life under normal and healthy conditions; that it is comparatively common among those who live habitually indoors; and that it attains its maximum incidence among those whose occupation involves prolonged confinement in a vitiated atmosphere.—Lindsay.

**Society's Duty To Mothers and Infants.**

"Of the many truths in the American Declaration of Independence none is nobler, and none is less adequately protected, than the mighty assertion that all are created equal. All men, and all women, have the common fact of birth. All enter this world with the potentialities of life. As they come to school age, a wise government, made wise by the integrity of freedom, grants them the equal opportunity of education. As they grow older, wise laws protect them in industry, against exploitation by the greedy. Laws are devised that living quarters may be safe, that the dangers of fire and other catastrophe may be minimized. About women in factories and shops we place what appears to be wise protection. Institutions are established and maintained to safeguard against the mischances of life, and for the alleviation of physical suffering. In countless ways the honesty and generous impulses of this country have sought to protect that equality which we were, a century and a half ago, guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence. But for the infant thrust into life, for the mother who bears him, what is the measure of equality?

Who would plant a tree and leave it to grow crooked, and then at some later time undertake to make it symmetrical and strong? Who would neglect a litter of puppies until quarter grown, and then undertake to make of them prize-winners? What artist would take a clean canvas and overturn upon it, without order and without design, a confusion of fine colors, and then later on seek by daubing hither and thither in the waste to lift from that welter of loss a great picture? Who would assemble a discord of instruments out of tune, and endeavor to produce a symphony?

But what colors and harmonies of humanity are jumbled and thrown to waste in the years of infancy!

The oldest and finest sentiment in the history of the race is the love of a mother for her child. It is the absolute unselfishness of sacrifice. No state can in honor, or in safety, ignore that sentiment, or falter in making it effective for the public good.

Wise laws derive their wisdom from accurate reflection of righteous public desires. Enlightened governments receive their inspiration from the intelligence of the people who constitute them. The just powers of governments are born in the consent of the governed. 'Public



opinion' is the collective authority of many individual opinions.

By wise laws, through the operations of enlightened governments, employing the powers of common consent, public opinion has an opportunity to utilize, and a duty to perform, in making good the guaranty of human equality offered in the inspired days of the American Declaration of Independence.

There has been developed to a high degree, within recent years, a public realization of the duty of society to the infant and the mother. How this duty may best be performed, not all agree. That in some way the right of the mother to bear and rear her children decently, and the right of the child to have a fair chance at life must be made secure, is granted. This is the great step gained towards making effective a noble interpretation and application of the thought that all are created equal.

The right to proper medical and surgical care, the right to intelligent nursing, the right to clean living conditions, the right to wholesome food, the right to merciful upbringing—these we may hold to be equal among all children born in our free country. It is to insure these rights that the present-day movement for maternal and infant care is dedicated.

To make effective these progressive and sane ideas—which are not so much new, as an effort to revert under modern complexities of civilization to normal conditions of human life—many avenues of success are open. Wise and cautious legislation is needed—laws to obstruct harm and laws to encourage progress; and laws to provide means.

Back of all these efforts, the pressure of understanding public opinion is the force which must operate. To obtain effective publicity for such work is not easy. The word propaganda stirs resentment, for the public has been surfeited with special pleas. Yet here we have a cause whose nobility none can challenge. It appeals to a sentiment that none disrespect. It awakens emotions common to all men and women. Once let the public realize the need for more effective care for the babies of the mothers of America; once let the public recognize the possibilities for the public good in a surer guaranty of a fair chance for every person born under our flag; once let the public stir to the fact that the voice calling for help is the voice of a mother in pain, or the cry of a child in suffering—then there will come such an answer as will wipe from the records of the land the stain of neglect for infants and their mothers, and will write

in its place across the pages of our records the new guaranty of equality, under which there shall be no American child without a fair chance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The rights of American citizenship begin with the unborn child. When we have made good our guaranty to him, we have strengthened beyond the possibility of future collapse the foundations of the American republic."—Edward Elwell Whiting in *The Commonwealth*.



### Poliomyelitis Situation Showing Improvement.

There was a drop in the number of poliomyelitis cases reported last week to 18 reported cases from 27 cases reported for the preceding week. There have been 75 cases of this disease reported in California during the past four weeks. Physicians, nurses and health officers in those sections of California where the disease has been unusually prevalent, have taken direct action in the control of the disease. It would seem probable that this activity has been instrumental in the prevention of a more widespread outbreak extending throughout the entire state. Cases of the disease reported last week from the following cities and counties:

#### Poliomyelitis cases reported in California week ending October 13th.

Los Angeles City	7
Los Angeles County	3
Pasadena	2
Hawthorne	1
Fresno County	1
Hollister	1
Sacramento	1
Sonoma County	1
Hanford	1



### Longer Lives and Safer.

More and more, disease is being cured before it begins. Typhus, which drove Napoleon from Moscow and destroyed his army, is now being wiped out by soap and hot water. Smallpox, once classed with measles, is being ended with tiny tubes of vaccine. Lead poisoning in potteries is being remarkably checked by the workmen eating outside their workrooms and washing the lead glaze off their hands before eating at all. Children by thousands are being saved from slow starvation by attention to their teeth, which enables them to eat and to digest their food. Wherever modern public health work is in progress, lives are longer and safer than they were.—*United States Public Health Service.*



**MORBIDITY.\***

**Diphtheria.**  
169 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 53, Oakland 28, San Francisco 26, Los Angeles County 12, Long Beach 5, San Bernardino 3, Santa Ana 1, Fresno County 1, Orange 2, Dinuba 2, Glendale 4, Ventura County 1, Santa Clara County 2, Tulare County 2, Hermosa Beach 1, Santa Monica 2, Yolo County 1, Tuolumne County 1, Richmond 1, Bakersfield 2, Solano County 1, Monrovia 1, Alameda 1, Ontario 4, Calexico 1, Oroville 1, Needles 1, Stockton 2, South San Francisco 1, San Leandro 1, Whittier 1, Ventura 1, Berkeley 3.

**Measles.**

213 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 15, Monterey County 34, Berkeley 6, San Francisco 82, Fort Bragg 33, Pinole 2, El Monte 1, Mendocino County 4, Long Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Sierra County 1, Fresno County 2, La Verne 4, Pasadena 4, Alhambra 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Hollister 2, San Joaquin County 3, San Gabriel 1, Los Angeles 1, Oakland 14.

**Scarlet Fever.**

88 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 13, Los Angeles County 7, San Fernando 3, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, San Bernardino County 5, Stockton 4, San Joaquin County 3, San Leandro 1, Pomona 4, Coalinga 3, Orange 4, Yolo County 4, Fresno County 4, Hanford 1, San Francisco 4, Pittsburg 1, Bakersfield 3, Orange County 2, Imperial County 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 4, Tulare County 1, Alameda 1, Alhambra 1, Hermosa Beach 1, Berkeley 1, Huntington Park 2, Pasadena 1, Oakland 4.

**Whooping Cough.**

26 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Riverside 2, San Francisco 9, Sacramento 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Glendora 1, Los Angeles 4, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles County 2, Pomona 3, Oakland 1.

**Smallpox.**

17 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 5, Los Angeles County 6, Pasadena 1, Glendora 1, Imperial County 1, Orange County 1, Redondo Beach 2.

**Typhoid Fever.**

16 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, San Bernardino County 1, South Pasadena 2, Los Angeles 3, Sacramento 1, Los Angeles County 2, San Joaquin County 1, Dinuba 1, Fresno County 1, Orange County 1, California 2.

**Cerebrospinal Meningitis.**

San Joaquin County reported 1 case of cerebrospinal meningitis.

**Epidemic Encephalitis.**

Two cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Santa Monica 1, Los Angeles 1.

**Poliomyelitis.**

18 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 7, Sacramento 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Hollister 1, Pasadena 2, Hawthorne 1, Hanford 1, Sonoma County 1.

\*From reports received on October 15th and 16th for week ending October 13th.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.**

Disease	1923				1922			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 13 received by Oct. 16	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 14 received by Oct. 17
	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6		Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	
Anthrax.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis.....	1	0	0	1	2	5	0	3
Chickenpox.....	35	30	49	30	34	27	24	36
Diphtheria.....	194	160	149	169	144	143	167	141
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	1	0	3	2	6	1	2	2
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Gonorrhoea.....	170	108	116	84	85	103	116	110
Influenza.....	13	18	18	13	15	14	29	17
Leprosy.....	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Malaria.....	16	6	13	7	18	8	13	4
Measles.....	292	228	223	213	3	6	12	13
Mumps.....	8	7	9	5	19	25	22	32
Pneumonia.....	32	54	45	31	67	38	41	52
Poliomyelitis.....	12	16	27	18	3	2	2	2
Scarlet Fever.....	62	66	63	88	70	69	97	86
Smallpox.....	8	14	15	17	10	5	4	2
Syphilis.....	81	124	91	130	81	110	116	111
Tuberculosis.....	169	154	168	166	136	141	135	131
Typhoid.....	20	23	22	16	38	30	23	19
Whooping Cough.....	41	42	25	26	35	32	30	75
Totals.....	1158	1052	1039	1014	769	760	834	837